

REPORT OF THE FINANCE LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE

September 15, 2005

The Honorable,
The Board of Commissioners of Cook County

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Murphy, Vice Chairman Moreno, Commissioners Butler, Gorman, Hansen and Maldonado (6)

Absent: Commissioner Sims (1)

Also
Present: Commissioners Peraica and Silvestri

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Finance Labor Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County met pursuant to notice on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at the hour of 1:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Your Subcommittee has considered the following item and upon adoption of this report, the recommendations are as follows:

272038 AMENDMENT TO THE COOK COUNTY LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE (PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT). Submitting a Proposed Ordinance Amendment sponsored by Peter N. Silvestri, County Commissioner; Co-sponsored by Jerry Butler, Elizibeth Ann Doody Gorman, Gregg Goslin, Carl R. Hansen, Joseph Mario Moreno and Anthony Peraica, County Commissioners.

The following is a synopsis of the Proposed Ordinance Amendment.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT TO THE COOK COUNTY LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, on September 15, 1998, the Cook County Board of Commissioners enacted the Cook County Living Wage Ordinance to establish meaningful employee compensation for lowest wage individuals employed by a person or business entity awarded a contract or subcontract with Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2004, said Ordinance was amended to require compensation of the living wage for services performed or produced by lowest paid individuals employed by a person or business entity awarded a contract or subcontract with Cook County or by a for-profit person or business entity of an owner occupied property who receives or renews a Class 6b or Class 9 property tax incentive pursuant to the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance (Ordinance 02-O-14); and

WHEREAS, there are currently approximately 3,500 units which are certified as supportive living facilities by the State of Illinois Department of Public Aid, with 1,700 such units being located in Cook County, and another 3,000 new units are in the planning stages, with 1,500 new units currently planned for occupancy in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, said 2004 Amendment has created an impediment to the Illinois Supportive Living Program within Cook County, thereby diminishing a key component of housing and health services for the elderly and low income populations in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the current ordinance has created a "chilling effect" on possible new units being built in our county, discourage renewals of Class 6b and Class 9 incentives, and ultimately may place current Cook County HOME funds, used to finance many of these projects, in jeopardy of default.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF COOK that the Cook County Living Wage Ordinance (05-O-02) is hereby amended as follows:

- Section 1. Living Wage Requirements.**
- Section 2. Applicability.**
- Section 3. Severability.**
- Section 4. Effective Date.**

***Referred to the Committee on Finance Labor Subcommittee on 7/12/2005.**

Chairman Murphy asked leave that all Commissioners on the Subcommittee, as well as all additional Commissioners present be added as co-sponsors.

Chairman Murphy delivered the following introduction and clarification of the proposed Amendment to the Ordinance:

The exemptions to this Ordinance include application renewals of Class 9 Property Incentives for supportive living facilities as certified by the State of Illinois Department of Public Aid pursuant to the Cook County Real Property Assessment Clarification. "Supportive living facility" is defined as a program which establishes an alternative to nursing home care for persons classified as low-income, older persons, and persons with disabilities under Medicaid and certified by the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Gorman, seconded by Commissioner Hansen, moved the approval of Communication No. 272038. The motion carried.

Chairman Murphy asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers.

1. James Keledjian – President, National Equity Fund, Inc.
2. Manny Binstock – The Pointe at Kilpatrick SLF
3. Blair Minton – Attorney at Law, Blair Minton & Associates
4. Jerome Finis – President, Affordable Assisted Living Coalition

Written statement only

1. Mitch Hamblet – General Manager, Eden Supportive Living Facility

Commissioner Silvestri noted that fifty-one senior citizens from Churchview Supportive Living and Pioneer Gardens are in attendance.

Commissioner Butler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance Labor Subcommittee

Joan Patricia Murphy, Chairman

Attest:

Michelle Harris, Secretary